

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Paolo Gaschino et al.
Serial Number: 10/761,950

Attorney Docket: SBC1031US

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An actuating device for a catheter comprising at least one first part and one second part, which are able to move relative to each other, the actuating device comprising:

(i) a tubular slide which can be connected to one of said first part and said second part of the catheter;

(ii) a slider, which is mobile with respect to the slide in the direction of a longitudinal axis and which can be actuated for moving said slide and moving said first part and said second part relative to each other; and

(iii) a speed-change mechanism, which is set between said slider and said slide, wherein said speed-change mechanism is able to perform the transmission of the movement between said slider and said slide with at least two drive ratios that are different in successive parts of a movement of said first part and said second part relative to each other.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said speed-change mechanism comprises:

(i) a member for transmission of motion, which co-operates with said slider and said slide for a part of said movement of said first and second parts relative to each other until one given position of said movement of said first and second parts relative to each other is reached; it being possible for said member for transmission of motion

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to be disengaged from between said slider and said slide until said given position of said movement of said first and second parts relative to each other is reached; and

(ii) complementary elements carried by said slider and by said slide, said complementary elements coming to bear upon one another substantially in a position corresponding to said given position of said movement of said first and second parts relative to each other, so as to obtain a ratio of drawing between said slider and said slide.

4. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said speed-change mechanism comprises at least one rotating body between said slider and said slide and carried by one of said slider and said slide, and having a toothing which is able to engage a respective toothing provided in the said slider or said slide that does not carry the rotating body; said at least one rotating body likewise operating in a relationship of meshing with a further toothing carried by a part of a casing of said actuating device.

5. (Original) The device according to claim 3, wherein said speed-change mechanism comprises at least one rotating body between said slider and said slide and carried by one of said slider and said slide, and having a toothing which is able to engage a respective toothing provided in the said slider or said slide that does not carry the rotating body; said at least one rotating body likewise operating in a relationship of meshing with a further toothing carried by a part of a casing of said actuating device and, when said given position of said movement of said first and second parts relative to each other is reached, the toothing of said at least one rotating body disengages from at least one of said respective toothing and said further toothing.

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6. (Original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said at least one rotating body is a wheel carried by one of said slider and said slide and having a peripheral toothing, which is able to engage both said respective toothing provided in the said slider or said slide that does not carry the rotating body and said further toothing carried by a part of a casing of said actuating device.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said at least one rotating body is a toothed sector carried by one of said slider and said slide and having a peripheral toothing that meshes with said further toothing carried by a part of said casing of said actuating device; said toothed sector being pivoted on a toothed pin, which is able to engage a respective toothing provided in the said slider or said slide that does not carry the rotating body.

8. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said speed-change mechanism comprises at least one element of transmission of motion in the form of a wheel carried by said slide, said wheel co-operating with a part of a casing of said device so as to guide the movement of said slide.

9. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said slide comprises an elongated body with a central core, and said slider has a general gantry-shaped conformation with an actuation board and side parts slidably fitted on said elongated body of the slide.

10. (Original) The device according to claim 3, wherein said slide comprises an elongated body with a central core, and said slider has a general gantry-shaped

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conformation with an actuation board and side parts slidably fitted on said elongated body of the slide and said complementary elements are constituted by said core of the slide and by one of said side parts of said slider.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the device comprises a casing and said slider comprises a body that is able to move longitudinally with respect to said casing with said slide slidably mounted with respect to said body of the slider.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 7, wherein the device comprises a casing and said slider comprises a body that is able to move longitudinally with respect to said casing with said slide slidably mounted with respect to said body of the slider, and said toothed sector is pivoted on the body of the slider by said toothed pin, which meshes with said respective toothing provided on said slide.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein associated to said slider is a projecting formation which can be used for moving said slider.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 12, wherein associated to said slider is a projecting formation which can be used for moving said slider.

15. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the device comprises a casing with a slit to enable sliding for at least part of said slider, said slit enabling access to said slider ~~in a relationship of drawing along in movement to move~~ said slider with respect to said slide.

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16. (Currently amended) An assembly comprising a catheter comprising at least one first part and one second part, which are able to move relative to each other, and an actuating device for the catheter comprising:

(i) a tubular slide which can be connected to one of said first part and said second part of the catheter;

(ii) a slider, which is mobile with respect to the slide in the direction of a longitudinal axis and which can be actuated for moving said slide and moving said first part and said second part relative to each other; and

(iii) a speed-change mechanism, which is set between said slider and said slide, wherein said speed-change mechanism is able to perform the transmission of the movement between said slider and said slide with at least two drive ratios that are different in successive parts of a movement of said first part and said second part relative to each other, and

wherein said slide is connected to one of said first part and said second part of the catheter.